

REMARKS

The applicant has carefully considered the official action and the references it cites. In the official action, claims 1-41 were rejected as anticipated by Goertzen and claims 52-54 were withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. By way of the foregoing amendments, claims 52-54 have been canceled, leaving claims 1-41 pending in the application.

As an initial matter, the applicant would like to thank Examiner Odom for the telephonic interview conducted with the undersigned on July 6, 2004. During the telephonic interview, the differences between the system taught by Goertzen (U.S. Patent No. 6,298,160) and the systems and methods disclosed and claimed in the instant application were generally discussed. In particular, the applicant pointed out that Goertzen fails to teach or suggest encoding an entropy value associated with a signal into the signal. Examiner Odom suggested that clarifying language should be added to at least independent claim 1 to more clearly indicate that a calculated entropy value is encoded into the signal in contrast to using an entropy encoding scheme to encode a signal for transmission (e.g., in a compressed format).

Turning to the art rejections, none of the cited references teaches or suggests an encoder that calculates an entropy value associated with at least a portion of a signal and encodes the signal to include the calculated entropy value so that an output of the encoder carries the encoded signal, which includes the calculated entropy value, as recited in independent claim 1. On the contrary, Goertzen merely teaches using an entropy encoding technique to vary the number of bits used to represent transmitted symbols. Goertzen is completely devoid of any teaching or suggestion that a calculated entropy value should be encoded in a signal so that an output of an encoder carries the encoded signal, which includes

the calculated entropy value, as recited in independent claim 1. The remaining references of record are similarly deficient.

Because Goertzen does not disclose each and every element set forth in independent claim 1, this claim cannot be anticipated thereby. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 and claims 2-10 dependent thereon are now in condition for allowance.

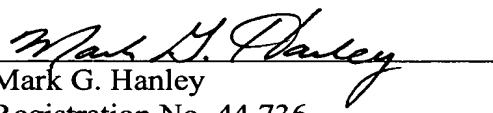
The remaining claims 11-41 are also allowable for at least the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, the applicant submits that all of the claims pending in the instant application are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

If there are any remaining issues in this application, the examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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